

THE GREENVILLE TIMES

ESTABLISHED 1868.
Oldest Newspaper issued in the Delta.
Published by
The Times Printing and Publishing Co.
Office Main street opposite P. O.
\$2.00 a Year by Subscription. 5 cents
a week delivered at your home.
Entered at the Postoffice in Greenville,
Miss., as Second-class mail matter.
H. T. CROSBY, Business Manager

DEMOCRATIC TICKET.

For President,
WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN,
of Nebraska.
For Vice-President,
ADLAI E. STEVENSON,
of Illinois.

THE STATE LIBRARY.

Few Southern states have done more for the cause of the primary education of its people since the war than Mississippi. Few of its means have provided so liberally for those wishing to educate themselves further than the public school curriculum provides. No young man or woman need go beyond the borders of the state to become excellently equipped for the realities of life, and all to the rich and poor alike, without money and without price, further than that payable by citizenship alone.

One of the most vitally important educational adjuncts to the school is the library, and, even here, Mississippi has done well; several of her higher institutions being excellently equipped in this respect.

But she has stopped,—and apparently it is a dead stop,—far too short of the mark. To render possible the completion of the work begun in the school, the state should provide its citizens with the tools of the student,—books,—and this it has done only in a very small measure.

It has satisfied the wants of one class of its citizens only, and that but a very small class. The state library, at Jackson, as a law library, ranks among the first half-dozen in America (we remember to have heard the late Judge Wiley P. Harris once say that it stood third or fourth, at that time), but as a library of general literature it is a shadow without the substance, a rank farce, a miserable makeshift, disgracing its designation. We would not have the provision for lawyers one iota less than it is, on the contrary, we take the greatest pride in knowing what has been done along this line, but, in all conscience, we say let the removal to the new capitol mark the beginning of better things for the larger and equally deserving class of our citizens, who pay our lawyers, and furnish these books to them to boot.

Our National library, unfortunately called the Congressional Library, once stood in the same relation to the great collections of Europe that our state library occupies to the magnificent public institutions of New England. Speaking to a Senate resolution to devote a portion of the Smithsonian bequest to the establishing of a great public library, Rufus Choate stated that of all the printed books in the world we did not then possess in America more than fifty thousand different works. He said "Gibbon's History could not have been written here for want of books." * * * Hallam's Middle Ages * * * could not. Irving's Columbus was written in Spain. See how this inadequate supply operates. An American mind kindles with a subject,—it enters on an investigation with a spirit and with an ability worthy of the most splendid achievement; goes a little way, finds that * * * books are indispensable which cannot be found this side of Gottingen or Oxford; it tires of the pursuit, or abandons it altogether, or substitutes some shallow conjecture for a deep and accurate research. And that is the end." We have but to substitute names, and this description of American conditions then, fitly characterizes our own today.

We do not mean to ask for a library equipped for the accomplishment of every work of human research, but only for the collection, from year to year, through reasonable annual expenditures, of such a library as shall be commensurate with the means and needs of the state; one to which those of her people who work in books may repair for help and inspiration; one in which her own history may be fully written and the life of her people be accurately portrayed; one which, under competent administration and the methods now being adopted

throughout the North and East, may be brought within the reach of all, and make of us better informed people and broader citizens,—with better, broader, abler opinions and views of ourselves, our country, and the world. Let the capitol commission provide the room and we believe the people will hereafter see to it that the proper action is taken to fill it.

A PLAIN COURSE.

Now that the ministers are safe, what is to be the fate of China? Her future is more absolutely in the hands of the civilized world than has ever been the fate of any great power.

The great states have sent their navies, their armies and their generals to her shores, and today the streets of her sacred capital echo the martial tread of the allied soldier; of the combined barbarian world. The sanctity of the ancient exclusiveness of the inner life of her reigning family has been desecrated, and she has felt the humiliation of having her people witness the abject flight of her sacred rulers.

It rests with the powers now in possession of her seat of empire to issue the edict that is to determine, alike the occupancy of her vacant throne, and the character of that occupancy,—to say whether it is to be that of the "titular sovereign of half a dozen empires in which he did not actually possess a rood of land," or that of actual kingship over an empire the future integrity of which those powers are prepared to guarantee. It is difficult to see how there can be any possible ground for hesitation on the part of America, in determining upon the logical position for us to assume and maintain. For the good of the Chinese,—from the standpoint of the philanthropist,—for the peace of the world,—from that of a nation whose interests are bound up in peace,—for our own material welfare,—from the view point of practical commercialism,—there is but one line of conduct open to our government. We should insist upon enthroning the rightful emperor, sending the dowager empress to some sea coast city, to be kept prisoner for life, and demand the maintenance of the integrity of the Chinese empire.

This seems to us to be so plain a duty, that without hesitation we say that no party unwilling to discharge it should be continued in power, nor any party unwilling to assume it be trusted with the care of American interests.

This talk of having discharged our duty, and accomplished our object by assisting in the rescue of the ministers, who would have been rescued had we never sent a soldier to China, is all bosh. Instead of withdrawing from Peking, we should send more troops there,—instead of getting up a lot of rotten sentimentality over a situation demanding the exercise of common sense, we should in plain language, announce our determination to see fair play done China, the world and, particularly, ourselves. There is no question about one power standing by us,—and that would mean the accomplishment of our purpose.

Let's not have any "scuttling," from either the Philippines or China. What the South needs is new markets for cotton and iron, and we had better be honest with ourselves, and admit our purpose to have them in the East.

That politics make strange bedfellows is being pretty well demonstrated during the present campaign. Who that remembers the history of National legislation from 1865 to 1876, or has read it, would have dreamed of ever seeing a convention made up principally of New England radicals, headed by such a man as Geo. S. Boutwell, endorse a Democratic candidate for president? True, the Liberty Congress put an extra plank into their platform, carrying the "created equal," "consent of the governed" idea to its logical conclusion,—a plank denouncing the South in terms beautifully consistent with the long and unbroken record of the Massachusetts ex-governor, at least the Republican end of it. But, from this quarter, consistency interdicts complaint.

The figures of Leflore county's assessment have been corrected, and it now appears that a mistake was made in reporting a decrease in land valuations since 1896.

TENURE OF OFFICE

"Rotation in office" may possess many excellent features as a rule for determining the official life of fiscal and some other officers. As applied to Congressmen and Senators, it is a suicidal policy for the district or state adopting it.

The essential prerequisites to the occupancy of a seat in the National Legislature, even for one term, should be absolute probity, unquestionable intellectual ability, and freedom from demagogism. No man not possessing these qualifications should be given even a trial,—any man having them should be re-elected so long as he retains his vigor unimpaired, and is willing to serve his people.

A constituency is gauged by the measure of its representatives,—the intellectual standard of a state is determined by the character of men to whom it delegates the exercise of its share of the duty of working out and shaping our National life and character. Given these qualities, and the measure of influence exercised by a state in National affairs will be largely determined by the length of service of its National representatives.

The dominant part played by the Southern states in National affairs during the first sixty years of our existence is accounted for by various hypotheses,—but the true reason may be found in the fact that these states sought out their very ablest men for duty at the capital, and kept them there. We even see this influence exhibited by single districts, as well as by states and sections. The famous Ashabula district, of Ohio, for instance, during a period of fifty-four years had only three representatives in Congress,—Elisha Whittlesey, Joshua R. Giddings, and James A. Garfield,—yet no one congressional district in America ever made itself so potentially felt for so long a time.

The South has too largely departed from her ancient practice in this regard for her own good. The cry of the demagogic politician and paper has been "rotation in office," "give every man a chance," and such kindred nonsense; and we have seen, too frequently, proven ability turned down to make way for the mediocrities of pothouse politics, masquerading under the guise of statesmen. Too much attention has come to be paid, in this section, to the ability to remember names and faces, to extend the glad hand, and act the good fellow, and the sterling qualities are largely at a discount. We need men able and brave enough to mould public opinion, but are surfeited with such as run for office with a hand upon the public pulse and an ear held to the ground.

It is a peculiar state of public opinion which would compel a man to repudiate his convictions on matters of public policy, or accept the alternative of political ostracism. And those who object most strongly when the victims of such a course, are often the readiest in pursuing it toward others. The South was terribly oppressed and cruelly humiliated through the medium of test-oaths, after the war, yet she has out-Heroded Herod in demanding political shibboleths of her own people. As in '96 no man could be a Democrat who was not for 16 to 1, so now it has come to pass that you are regarded as practically a traitor, if you presume to deny the ability of a political convention or candidate to successfully pragmatize the generalities of the Declaration of Independence. Truly a strange attitude for such a people as ours to assume.

Some weeks ago The Times expressed its belief to be that the Chinese situation would not materially affect the price of cotton this season. This opinion was based upon the idea of a short crop, and we see no reason to change it, despite the shut-down, either entire or partial, of some Southern mills. It may be urged that every shut-down decreases the demand and so affects the price. This may be true, to a certain extent, but on a crop the size of the present, this effect will be scarcely appreciable. So far as we are concerned, it is to the cotton grower that we would like to say, "let us say that the cotton grower had helped himself a little, and had curtailed his cotton by a million or so acres,—what would have been the result?"

Books and Magazines.

We are indebted to the September Bookman for the information that the London Academy tells its readers that James Lane Allen comes from a state "which, with a population of two millions, has only one town with a population of over five thousand inhabitants."

It is wonderful, the amount of ignorance which, in this day of railroads, telegraphs, books, newspapers and magazines, various English speaking communities display in regard to one another. However, we do not have to go to England to find such an exhibition. New England is today more ignorant of the real character, manners and life of the South and its people than old England is of America in general.

It is refreshing to turn from such thoughts to an article like that on the South, by Philip Alexander Bruce, in the July Contemporary, of London.

For clear insight into Southern ante-bellum social relations, and a just appreciation of what was good and ennobling in the old plantation life of the period, this Englishman is far and away ahead of any Northern writer whose attempted delineations we have read.

A very distinct change of taste has come over American novel readers, if the extent of sales is any index, as it assuredly is.

The demand for dangerous adventure by field and flood, blood, murder, etcetera, seems to have been to a large extent, at least temporarily assuaged. Quite a number of new favorites have appeared, among which, of the old ones, only "To Have and to Hold" has kept a place. According to the Bookman's monthly statement from thirty-one leading American cities, the following were the most popular six books for July, in the order named:

1. "The Reign of Law."
2. "To Have and to Hold."
3. "The Redemption of David Corson."
4. "Unleavened Bread."
5. "Voice of the People."
6. "Philip Winwood."

....Crops....

Such changes as have occurred in the cotton crop in the Delta, during the past week, have unquestionably tended toward a reduction of the yield. To an increased amount of shedding, has been added the appearance of worms in some localities. From all indications the top crop will be universally short, and in many places will not be worth considering in the final account.

Secretary Hester's annual cotton report is filled with much valuable data,—to the cotton planter no less than to the buyer and merchant. Placing the last crop at 9,436,416 bales, being 1,838,424 under that of '98-'99, he shows its average value per bale to have been \$38.55, as against \$25.08 for the previous one,—giving the total value of the respective crops as \$363,785,000 for '98-'99, and \$282,775,000 for '99-'00. Col. Hester emphasizes the fact that the last crop, shorter by more than one and three-quarter million bales than that of the year before, brought over \$81,000,000 more than that crop.

When we reflect that these figures do not represent the full difference between two crops, to the grower, but that to them must be added the saving represented by the cost of gathering and marketing 1,800,000 bales, which cost was chargeable against the money value of the crop of '98-'99, we can appreciate how much this difference really means.

As a commentary on the advantages accruing from a curtailment of the crop, it is worth more than all the resolutions ever adopted by conventions and associations assembled for the purpose of reducing the acreage. But it will meet the same response on the part of the grower,—for he will never save himself. He looks to the Lord and free silver to do that.

But, "just for instance," let us suppose that this reduced yield had not been entirely the work of the weather,—let us say that the cotton grower had helped himself a little, and had curtailed his cotton by a million or so acres,—what would have been the result?

Regardless of the increased shortage that might have resulted, through weather conditions added to decreased acreage, the value of the crop would still have been as great, possibly greater; while to it would have been added the value represented by whatever was raised upon the million and more acres which were not planted in cotton.

To abandon useless moralizing and return to figures,—the report puts the total visible and invisible American cotton in the world, on Sept. 1st, at 1,118,000 as against 2,896,000 on the same date last year; while the figures for the total visible and invisible of all kinds in the world on the same dates, he puts at 1,723,000 and 3,701,000 bales respectively.

The report puts the number of spindles in the South at 6,287,163, an increase over last year of 1,316,071. Southern consumption is placed at 1,597,112 bales, 197,713 over last year. Northern mills consumed 2,300,000 bales. On Sept. 1st, the number of Southern mills was 663, against 336 in 1890. One mill is mentioned as having bought 6,000,000 pounds of seed cotton during the year, which it manufactured direct from its own gins, without baling a pound of it.

Last year's world's consumption of American cotton he puts at 11,022,000.

As showing the possibilities of the South, for the profitable manufacture of cotton, we consider the most significant and suggestive item in the entire report to be the mention of a mill having converted 6,000,000 pounds of seed cotton into the manufactured product without the intervention of a press of any description, square, standard, cylindrical or compress. This does not indicate a practice ever likely to become common, but it emphasizes a point of distinct advantage, possessed by Southern over other American, and all European mills, if ever forced to dicker resorts, through stress of competition.

Meanwhile, what are we doing about picking?

Everybody has started, and it is the literal truth that in some places, apparently, half the crop is being gotten by the first picking.

We notice one thing that seems to be as stationary as a ditched locomotive,—and that is the price we pay for getting it out. Regardless of the selling price, conditions, or anything else, we give up our little fifty cents every time we hire a rounder to deliver one hundred pounds at the sheet. However, this only amounts to somewhere in the neighborhood of eight or nine dollars a bale, so we ought not to kick about it,—especially as we are not paying it.

This week has been a lively one for those who knew it all, and the bucket shops have done a big business. Liverpool took a tumble to the true situation, and, for a while, ran away with the market, and the American bears have had to stand some pretty heavy jolts, in consequence.

It is barely possible that some who are born in this century may live to see the day when the Republican party shall divorce itself of its South-hating proclivities, and grant to this section the privilege of regulating its own political affairs, under the Constitution, as interpreted by the Supreme Court. The New York platform contains the regulation amount of cant about "human rights," and their suppression in the South, etc. It says that "From thousands of polling places in this election, in which the Democratic party is so much concerned about the consent of the governed, the negro citizen will be excluded by laws so contrived as to keep out the negro Republican while admitting the white Democrat, though both present themselves with similar qualifications except as to color."—winding up with a fling at Mississippi and one or two other Southern states. Politicians of all creeds play on the "human rights" string of the electioneering harp to a ridiculous degree. In the matter of the franchise, all this talk about "human rights" is an absurdity. The suffrage is a privilege, pure and simple, and not a "right," and fulminations to the contrary are the product of maliciousness, or else are based upon inexcusable ignorance of the elementary principles of American governmental science.

JNO. R. BAIRD,
PRESIDENT.

F. J. ROTH,
VICE-PRESIDENT.

The Baird-Smith Co.

WHOLESALE GROCERS.

—DEALERS IN—

Grain, Provisions, Etc.

Warehouse, on R. R. Track.

General Office, 23 Poplar Street.

Prices Quoted on Application.

GREENVILLE, - MISSISSIPPI

WE Are Headquarters for

Lubricating Oils, Belting,
Steam Fittings, Packing and
Lace Leather, Gin Supplies

AGENTS FOR BUCK FIRST-CLASS
THE FAMOUS HIGH-CALIBER

Stoves and Ranges

Geise-Hood Hardware

IN MY NEW STORE

331 Washington Avenue.

FRANK BINDER

Didn't know it was Lost



is the excuse you often hear in case of accidental shooting. Of course you didn't know you would burn down either your house or your business, consumed by fire, and then you were sorry that you were not insured. Let me insure you so you will be ready for emergencies.

HENRY T. IREYS, JR.,
Fire, Life, Accident and Tornado Insurance

Greenville Grocery

—DEALERS IN—

STAPLE AND FANCY GROCERIES

233 Washington Avenue,

GREENVILLE, - MISSISSIPPI

BUILDING UP A BUSINESS

Is Easy Work when you show your goods are made of the best material and sold at a fair profit. This has always been our aim, and to it and courteous treatment we have always adhered. Everything in the Furniture line. Whatever you want, come and see our goods. We can make terms and prices satisfactory to you. We invite you to call on us daily. Come and see our beautiful Carpets.

W. W. Wilson Furniture
Cor. Washington Ave. and Main St.

A Stylish Turnout CAN ALWAYS BE FOUND AT THE

Palace Stables

If you want a good Saddle or a good Drive. You can always find it there. We have always on hand Horses for sale. Our Hacks are always ready. When needing one, Telephone 66, Palace Stables. J. SILVERSTEIN